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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1703**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Walsh, Pettigrew, Haler, Simpson, Hinkle, Hurst, Hunter, Priest, Upthegrove, Roberts, Springer, Pedersen, Hudgins, Morrell, Cody, Dickerson, McIntire, P. Sullivan, Appleton, Roach, Kessler, Darneille, Hasegawa, Moeller, Williams, Conway, Santos, Kenney and Lantz)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a domestic violence pilot program to  
2 colocate a domestic violence advocate in department of social and  
3 health services offices; adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department of social and health services shall create a  
9 pilot program to place a domestic violence advocate in a minimum of two  
10 division of children and family services offices.

11 (2) The purpose of the program is to provide domestic violence  
12 safety planning, advocacy, information, and support to adult victims of  
13 domestic violence who are receiving services from the division of  
14 children and family services offices, and to increase the capacity of  
15 division of children and family services workers to identify and  
16 respond effectively to domestic violence in their caseloads.

17 (3) The goals of the program are to:

18 (a) Increase the safety of children and adult victims of domestic

1 violence who are involved with the department's child protective  
2 services division;

3 (b) Increase the adult domestic violence victim's understanding of  
4 available domestic violence resources and supports;

5 (c) Increase the adult domestic violence victim's and the domestic  
6 violence perpetrator's understanding of the effects of domestic  
7 violence on children;

8 (d) Provide consultation and training to child protective services  
9 social workers so that they may increase their knowledge of domestic  
10 violence and practice skills for addressing domestic violence in their  
11 caseloads, and provide safe, effective responses for children and their  
12 families experiencing domestic violence;

13 (e) Decrease the rate at which victims of domestic violence are  
14 referred back to the division of children and family services;

15 (f) Decrease the number of children of domestic violence victims  
16 that are placed in protective custody;

17 (g) Improve the ability of division of children and family services  
18 social workers to accurately identify the full spectrum of abusive and  
19 coercive tactics that are utilized by domestic violence perpetrators,  
20 and their impact on children's safety and well-being, as well as the  
21 way they disrupt or undermine the parenting practices of adult victims  
22 of domestic violence;

23 (h) Improve the ability of the division of children and family  
24 services social worker to identify the range of strategies employed by  
25 adult domestic violence victims to support the safety and well-being of  
26 their children;

27 (i) Increase the strategies available to division of children and  
28 family services social workers to hold the domestic violence  
29 perpetrator accountable for abusive and coercive behavior and its  
30 adverse impact on children;

31 (j) Increase the ability of division of children and family  
32 services social workers to accurately identify the domestic violence  
33 perpetrator as the person responsible for the adverse impact of  
34 domestic violence on children;

35 (k) Strengthen collaborations between department staff and  
36 community providers and resources; and

37 (l) Conduct an evaluation of the program by comparing the outcomes  
38 of the program offices to the outcomes of the two offices that do not

1 have the domestic violence advocate, and to develop a report of the  
2 findings and recommendations that may be used to replicate the program  
3 statewide.

4 (4) The department shall convene advisory groups at the program  
5 sites to provide advice on the implementation and progress of the pilot  
6 program. The advisory groups shall include representatives from a  
7 local domestic violence agency, public health, domestic violence  
8 perpetrator's treatment program, protection order programs, law  
9 enforcement, and others who are appropriate for the advisory group.

10 (5) The department shall utilize a request for proposal process and  
11 shall select the pilot sites by September 2007. The request for  
12 proposal shall require:

13 (a) The community-based domestic violence agency to have experience  
14 providing domestic violence shelter or advocacy services under chapter  
15 70.123 RCW, and experience working with families involved with child  
16 protective services or child welfare services.

17 (b) The agency must be willing to commit to the following:

18 (i) Involvement in the program for the duration of the program;

19 (ii) Providing the employees who will be the domestic violence  
20 victim advocates located at the department offices;

21 (iii) Agree to supervise and support the advocates placed into the  
22 department offices;

23 (iv) Collaborate with the division of children and family services  
24 program supervisor at each site; and

25 (v) Participate in the evaluation of the pilot program.

26 (c) The domestic violence advocate shall provide the following  
27 services while colocated at the department office:

28 (i) Provide on-site education, consultation, and support to  
29 division of children and family services staff to meet the needs of the  
30 children and families involved in domestic violence situations on  
31 subjects including, but not limited to:

32 (A) Identifying indicators of domestic violence;

33 (B) Interviewing techniques that do not increase the risk of danger  
34 to the adult victim of domestic violence or the child;

35 (C) Identifying protective behaviors that may reduce the risk of  
36 harm to the adult victim or the child;

37 (D) Determining risks posed by an alleged domestic violence  
38 perpetrator to the adult victim or the child; and

1 (E) How to refer victims to a domestic violence advocate;

2 (ii) Provide advocacy services to facilitate linkage to appropriate  
3 community supports for families receiving services from division of  
4 children and family services offices;

5 (iii) Participating in child protective services unit meetings,  
6 case reviews, or child protection team meetings, for families with  
7 identified domestic violence concerns; and

8 (iv)(A) Provide general information to department workers regarding  
9 domestic violence issues such as battering tactics, resources, and  
10 safety planning development. It is not the role of the advocate to  
11 provide information or training to department workers on specialized  
12 areas of child welfare practice such as risk assessments.

13 (B) Further, the domestic violence advocate shall not provide case  
14 consultation services to any family to whom they are providing direct  
15 advocacy. The domestic violence advocate may not provide direct  
16 advocacy services to any family on whose case they have provided  
17 consultation.

18 (6) Provision of services by a domestic violence advocate under  
19 this section does not waive or diminish the confidential or privileged  
20 nature of communications between a victim of domestic violence and  
21 advocate pursuant to RCW 5.60.060, 70.123.075, or 70.123.076.

22 (7) The program shall be evaluated to determine the outcomes of the  
23 program.

24 (a) The department shall utilize the services of an evaluator from  
25 a university or other organization who has expertise in evaluating the  
26 division of children and family services and expertise in domestic  
27 violence and child maltreatment issues of children and families. The  
28 department shall select the evaluator by September 2007.

29 (b) Beginning in October 2007, the evaluator shall conduct a  
30 preprogram assessment. The evaluator shall assess and compare the  
31 program sites to two additional divisions of children and family  
32 services offices selected as comparison sites. The comparison sites  
33 shall not have a domestic violence advocate colocated at the site.

34 (c) The evaluator shall collect and assess data from the program  
35 and nonprogram comparison sites to determine the following outcomes:

36 (i) Changes to the rate of being referred back to child protective  
37 services intake for domestic violence related concerns;

1 (ii) Whether there are documented safety assessments that identify  
2 domestic violence safety risk factors for the children and the adult  
3 victim of domestic violence;

4 (iii) Whether there are documented service plans with strategies  
5 that address and mitigate identified domestic violence safety risks;

6 (iv) Whether there is an increase in the ability of the adult  
7 victims of domestic violence, as well as the perpetrator of domestic  
8 violence, to identify safety risks and adverse impacts of domestic  
9 violence on the children;

10 (v) Whether there is an increase in the adult domestic violence  
11 victim's access to resources available to them within the community to  
12 increase the safety and security for themselves and the children;

13 (vi) Whether there is an increase in the ability of the perpetrator  
14 of domestic violence to identify and understand the adverse impact of  
15 the abusive and coercive domestic violence behaviors on their children;

16 (vii) Changes to the rate of children of adult domestic violence  
17 victims placed into protective custody in the program offices compared  
18 to the comparison sites at the end of the three-year pilot program  
19 period;

20 (viii) Whether there is an increase in the knowledge of division of  
21 children and family services caseworkers regarding response to domestic  
22 violence in the child protective services caseload and changes in  
23 practice;

24 (ix) Whether the capacity of the social worker to accurately  
25 identify domestic violence perpetrators as responsible for the negative  
26 consequences of domestic violence increases and is reflected through  
27 case plans, who is the target of investigations, and against whom  
28 findings are made; and

29 (x) Whether the focus on the perpetrator will cause division of  
30 children and family services social workers to develop service plans  
31 and strategies for the perpetrator with the aim of reducing child  
32 neglect or abuse risks caused by the perpetrator's domestic violence  
33 behaviors.

34 (d)(i) The evaluator shall use the results of the evaluation to  
35 identify the effectiveness of the program including effectiveness of  
36 training, consultation, and advocacy services, changes in social worker  
37 practices, improvements in services to families, barriers to

1 implementing program services, and service gaps for families affected  
2 by domestic violence.

3 (ii) The evaluation shall include recommendations to the department  
4 for improving domestic violence responses in other division of children  
5 and family services community offices of Washington state.

6 (e) The evaluator shall report the findings of the program to the  
7 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010.

8 (8) The pilot program shall begin in January 2008.

9 (9) This section expires January 1, 2011.

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